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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

CAJACOB, *et al.*

Appl. No.: 09/233,218

Filed: January 20, 1999

Title: Nucleic Acid Molecules and Other
Molecules Associated with the
Tetrapyrrole Pathway

Art Unit: 1631

Examiner: Y. Kim

Atty. Docket: 16517.231 / 38-21(15093)B

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed July 16, 2001, (Paper No. 17), Applicants submit the following remarks.

REMARKS

With this response, claims 1, 2, and 10-21 are pending. Applicants do not believe that any fees are due at this time. However, should any fees be required for any reason relating to this document, the Commissioner is authorized to deduct the fees from Arnold & Porter Deposit Account No. 50-1824.

I. Rejection under 35 USC § 101, Utility

Claims 11-21 stand rejected under 35 USC § 101 for allegedly not being supported by either specific and/or substantial utility, or a well-established utility. This rejection is respectfully traversed for the reasons which follow.